हजारों लोग बेघर हुए हैं, उन्हें अन्यत्र बसाया जाना है। जो लोग अन्यत्र बस गए हैं, उनके लिए वहां पर नागरिक सुविधाएं नाम मात्र ही उपलब्ध हैं। शेष उजड़े लोगों को पुनर्वासित करने की कोई ठोस एवं संतोषप्रद योजना, धन के अभाव में लागू नहीं हो पा रही है। उजड़े हुए लोग वैकल्पिक खेती व रोजगार के अभाव में, अपने भविष्य के प्रति चिंतित हैं। परिवार की परिभाषा दोषपूर्ण होने के कारण लोगों को न्याय संगत मुआवजा नहीं मिल रहा है। ऐसे क्षेत्र, जो बांध में नहीं डूबे हैं, वहां विशाल बांध के निर्माण के कारण सड़क, चिकित्सा, शिक्षा आदि की सभी व्यवस्थाएं, पूर्णतः अस्त-व्यस्त हो गई हैं। एक प्रकार से बांध के निर्माण से समस्त टिहरी जनपद का विकास व जन जीवन अस्त-व्यस्त की स्थिति में है।

राज्य सरकार भरपूर प्रयास करके स्थिति को सुधार रही है। संसाधनों के अभाव में राज्य के प्रयास, परिस्थितियों की गंभीरता के सम्मुख, नगण्य सिद्ध हो रहे हैं। अतः केन्द्र सरकार को टिहरी के पुनर्वास हेतु एक विशेष आर्थिक पैकेज स्वीकृत करना चाहिए। राज्य सरकार इस आशय का प्रस्ताव विद्युत मंत्रालय को भेज चुकी है।

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Framework agreement adopted by World Trade Organisation

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): Sir, I rise to make a statement on the proceedings of the General Council meeting of the WTO held at Geneva last month where a Framework Agreement was adopted by the Members on 1st August, 2004. A copy of the Framework Agreement is being placed on the Table of the House.

(MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair)

2. As the honourable Members are aware, the Cancun Ministerial Conference of the WTO held in September, 2003, ended in a stalemate since consensus could not emerge among Member countries on major issues under the Doha Work Programme. Since the multilateral process is important to India, we have been taking an active part in the revival of the Doha process by interacting with both the developing and the developed countries. As a result of these efforts, the Framework Agreement adopted, has ensured that the negotiations are back on track. It provides necessary guidance and parameters for further negotiations. The next Ministerial Conference is scheduled to be held in Hong Kong in December, 2005.

3. The issues before the General Council were the same as those before the Cancun Ministerial Conference. Besides taking stock of the progress of negotiations on major issues like Agriculture, Non-Agricultural Market Access and Services, review of progress on the development-related issues like

Implementation Issues and Special and Differential Treatment Provisions was also to be made. A decision on the launch of negotiations on the four Singapore Issues of Trade and Investment, Trade and Competition Policy, Transparency in Government Procurement and Trade Facilitation was also required to be made.

4. Before participating in the General Council, we held wide ranging consultations with stakeholders, political parties and trade unions. The inputs we received in these consultations helped us to shape our strategy in the negotiations.

5. I am happy to announce to the honourable Members that we have been able to achieve all our major objectives in this Framework Agreement. In the crucial area of Agriculture, it has been agreed that:

(i) All forms of export subsidies would be eliminated by an end date. This was a major demand of ours, since the developed countries are extending support of hundreds of billions of dollars every year to their farmers, resulting in artificially low prices for their agri-exports. This commitment in the Agreement is, therefore, a positive achievement. At the same time, the flexibility available to developing countries like India to provide certain subsidies for export of agricultural products would continue to be available for an even longer period, beyond the elimination of export subsidies by developed countries.

(ii) On trade distorting domestic support, it has been possible to ensure that an immediate commitment in the form of 20 per cent reduction in overall trade distorting support would be made in the very first year itself. (Against this, during the entire implementation period of the Uruguay Round only 20 per cent cut was effected in Domestic Support). Besides, the permissible *de minimis* support in respect of developed countries would be reduced from the present level of 5 per cent, while developing countries like India that allocate almost all *de minimis* support to subsistence and resource poor farmers will not have any obligation to reduce their existing level of *de minimis* support of 10 per cent. Thus, our concerns relating to protection of the

support we extend to resource poor farmers have been adequately addressed.

(iii) The Blue Box, hitherto uncapped, will be capped at 5 per cent from the first year of the implementation period itself. A modified Blue Box can be created only after agreement among Members on the criteria, which would be subject to negotiations.

(iv) On market access, the Agreement envisages that higher rates of tariff will face higher levels of cuts. Since the reduction required is from bound rates, which in the case of India are usually much higher than the applied rates, we have an adequate cushion of comfort. On the other hand, developed countries, which do not have this cushion, will have to effect real and deep cuts. Thus, market access for our products would increase.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA (Rajasthan) : How do we see what is happening? We are supposed to have a copy of this.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him complete.

SHRI KAMAL NATH : Furthermore, the following elements in the Framework provide us the necessary comfort:

(I) The principle of proportionality will enable developing countries to make lower rates of reductions as compared to developed countries;

(II) We would have greater flexibility in the number of sensitive products and their treatment than that permitted to developed countries;

(III) We are also eligible to designate an appropriate number of products as Special Products (this is available only to developing countries) based on our food & livelihood security or rural development needs;

(IV) The Framework Agreement also provides for use of a Special Safeguard Mechanism triggered by prices or quantity, against surge in imports which would safeguard domestic producers in developing countries;

(v) The Framework Agreement clearly stipulates that the negotiations will have to take into account the concerns of developing countries relating to rural development, food security and livelihood security needs as regards tariff reduction formula, the number and treatment of sensitive products, expansion of the tariff quotas and the implementation period.

6. In the area of industrial products, covered under Non-agricultural Market Access Negotiations, our concerns were mainly focused on the twin issues of protection to the sensitive items, and to the nature of the sectoral approach - whether voluntary or mandatory. The introduction of specific language in the Framework Agreement ensures that any decision that may be taken in the future will take care of our concerns. The negotiations on a formula in this sector could lead to more market access for us in developed countries by bringing down peak tariffs and reducing tariff escalations in products of export interest to India, such as textiles and leather. The Framework, while providing for less than full reciprocity in tariff reduction commitments, also envisages additional flexibility in the treatment of some of the tariff lines, through either no cuts or through reduced cuts.

7. In the negotiations on Services, we have an offensive agenda, and in the Framework Agreement it was possible to incorporate specifically an area of major interest to us namely, Mode 4, (*i.e.* movement of natural persons). The Agreement envisages furnishing high quality offers in sectors and modes of supply of interest to developing countries to be made in a time-bound manner.

8. The Framework Agreement has also made a firm commitment to addressing the specifically development-related issues like implementation issues and operationalisation of Special and Differential Treatment provisions on a time-bound basis.

9. One of our significant achievements in the Framework Agreement is the removal of three of the four Singapore issues on which we had objections - namely Investment, Procurement & Competition. The fourth issue, Trade Facilitation, which continues to be on the agenda, is an area of special interest to us since what may be expected from this negotiation would be a continuation of our autonomous reform process in this area. Trade facilitation essentially means simplification & Transparency in customs procedures, cutting down on transaction costs etc. Reform in the customs

procedures of other countries as well and an effective cooperation mechanism between customs administrations would greatly benefit our exporters.

10. The Framework Agreement is the first major stage towards conclusion of the Doha Work Programme, since it lays down the principles and criteria. The next step would be finalisation of modalities, including formulae for reduction in tariffs and domestic support, setting the actual date for elimination of export subsidies for agricultural products and giving shape and meaning to the various special provisions we have managed to incorporate in the Agreement.

11. We have been helped to a large extent by our ability to develop and maintain issue-based alliances with like minded countries. The G-20 alliance on Agriculture stayed together and met frequently to decide on the strategy. On Singapore issues a significant role was played by the G-16. On the issue of Special Products the Group of 33 was our firm ally. We also made special efforts to develop common grounds on a number of issues with the G-90 countries, consisting of ACP countries and LDCs. The Five Interested Parties (FIPs) consisting of India, US, EU, Australia and Brazil played perhaps the most pivotal role in evolving consensus on the Framework in Agriculture. We are committed to continuing to work in close cooperation with other WTO Members and groupings on issues of interest to us in the next stage of negotiations.

12. We attach due importance to the smooth functioning of the multilateral trading system. We are determined to ensure that, as negotiations proceed based on the Framework that has been recently agreed upon, our core concerns continue to be adequately addressed. Our approach to the negotiations will be dictated by our national interests, especially our concerns for the million of farmers who are dependent for their livelihood on agriculture, as also our objective of stimulating economic activity through export of our Goods & Services. We are determined to pursue our interests in this and other areas vigorously.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU (West Bengal): Sir, when will the discussion on this subject be taken up?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Discussion will be taken up day-after-tomorrow. Now, the House is adjourned for lunch till 2.00 p.m.

The House then adjourned for lunch at forty-one minutes past twelve of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at one minute past two of the clock,

(MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.)

SHORT DURATION DISCUSSION

Flood situation in some parts of the country

प्रो. राम देव भंडारी (बिहार) : माननीय उपसभापति जी, सबसे पहले मैं आपके माध्यम से सभापति जी का आभार व्यक्त करता हूं कि उन्होंने मेरे और कुछ अन्य माननीय सदस्यों के अनुरोध पर एक बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण विषय 'बाढ़ की समस्या' पर चर्चा कराना स्वीकार किया। इस सत्र के प्रथम चरण में ही इस पर चर्चा होनी थी परन्तु किसी कारण चर्चा नहीं हो सकी और आज दूसरे चरण के प्रथम दिन ही इस विषय को चर्चा के लिए कार्यावलि में शामिल किया गया। इसके लिए भी मैं सभापति महोदय का आभार व्यक्त करता हूं। महोदय, देश में हर वर्ष तरह-तरह की प्राकृतिक विपदाएं आती हैं। कहीं बाढ़, कहीं सुखाड़, कहीं साइक्लोन, कहीं अतिवृष्टि, कहीं अल्पवृष्टि, कहीं ओला, अनेकों प्रकार की प्राकृतिक विपदाएं देश में आती हैं, जो देश की सामाजिक और आर्थिक व्यवस्था को छिन्न-भिन्न कर देती है। एक प्रकार से देश की जो अर्थव्यवस्था होती है, किसी राज्य की अर्थव्यवस्था होती है, उसकी कमर तोड़ कर रख देती है। बाढ़ और सुखाड़ देश की स्थाई समस्या बन गई है। इस बार जो बाढ़ आई, खास करके बिहार, असम जैसे राज्यों में उसने अपने सभी पुराने रिकार्ड को तोड़ दिया है। मैं रात को टेलीविजन पर देख रहा था कि इस समय उड़ीसा बाढ़ की चपेट में आया हुआ है। बिहार में तो आजादी के बाद सबसे भयंकर बाढ़ का अहसास बिहार वासियों ने किया है। महोदय, आपने भी और इस सदन के दूसरे माननीय सदस्यों ने भी और पूरे देश ने टी.वी. चैनलों पर देखा है तथा समाचार पत्रों में भी पढ़ा है। बिहार के 38 जिलों में से 22 जिले बाढ़ से बुरी तरह प्रभावित थे। मैं सभी जिलों का नाम नहीं ले रहा हूं। मधुबनी, दरभंगा, सीतामढ़ी, मुजफ्फरपुर, समस्तीपुर और खगरिया सहित उत्तरी बिहार के तकरीबन सभी जिले बाढ़ग्रस्त थे। राज्य का बहुत बड़ा क्षेत्र और बड़ी भारी आबादी इसकी चपेट में आई हुई थी और भारी जान-माल का नुकसान हुआ है। सात हजार गांवों से ज्यादा में पानी घुस गया था, साढ़े तीन लाख से अधिक घर या तो पानी में बह गए या वहीं पर गिर गए। मानव जीवन का भी बड़ा भारी नुकसान हुआ है। बड़ी संख्या में मवेशी मारे गए हैं। मनुष्य के जीवन पर इस प्रकार की विपत्ती बिरले आती है। महोदय, हमारे यहां समुद्र नहीं है। मगर बाढ़ में ऐसा लगता था कि चारो तरफ समुद्र आ गया है, चारों तरफ पानी ही पानी था। घर हो, गांव हो, खेत-खलिहान हो, बाग-बगीचा हो सब कुछ पानी में डूबा हुआ था। कहीं पैर रखने की जगह नहीं थी। सड़कों पर, हाई स्कूल, कॉलेज, कहीं भी यदि ऊंची जगह मिल जाती तो परिवार के साथ पशु धन भी, सभी एक ही जगह जाकर पैर रखने की जगह ढूंढते थे। इतना ही नहीं सबसे कठिन स्थिति यह थी कि आवागमन और संचार का सारा साधन खत्म हो चुका था, बिल्कुल छिन्न-भिन्न और अस्त-व्यस्त हो चुका था। नेशनल हाइवे -जो बहुत